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not over half his final besieging force. At Chattanooga Sherman is said to have carried Missionary Ridge on November 23, and the dramatic storming is described as taking place then instead of two days later. As might be expected, the author fails to be consistent with himself. On page 210 he says, "the ultimate defeat of the South was a foregone conclusion from the start. The vast preponderance of resources in the North confronted the South as with an inevitable fate". But on page 381 he says the subjugation of the South "was an almost impossible task" and that the North won only because the Southern people "had neither the cause which impels to win nor the spirit to uphold a guerilla warfare". Such looseness of statement is characteristic and leads one to regret that while Mr. Lee was performing his iconoclastic task he did not do it in better shape.

THEODORE CLARKE SMITH.

Reminiscences of the Civil War. By GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1903. Pp. xiii, 474.)

GENERAL GORDON began his military experience as a captain in the first days of the Civil War. Before that he had known nothing of the life of a soldier. He had begun his career as a lawyer, and this vocation had been abandoned for the management of large mining properties in Georgia and Alabama. But he possessed the military genius, and when Lee surrendered Gordon was a lieutenant-general, and this at the age of thirty-three. He was one of the ablest lieutenants of the Confederate commander in the last days of the war. For the early part of the great struggle his *Reminiscences* are not so valuable as for the latter part, and for the simple reason that he was not, during the former, in a position to know much about the inner history of campaigns. In neither part does he endeavor to present a critical account of military movements. He is content, in general, to tell a simple narrative of his personal experiences. This is done in a manner at once charming and instructive. It will appeal to the general reader, just as General Gordon's lectures on the war appealed to many people in all parts of the Union. In this sense the book is one of the most notable of recent publications on the war. The mass of intelligent readers, and they are the people for whom books are chiefly written, will find it one of the best obtainable pictures of life in the Confederate army. It is probable that even the specialist will find it attractive for its human interest and for the color it affords to the general narrative of the Southern side of the war.

Yet General Gordon's book is not devoid of original material. His chapters which treat of the battle of Cedar Creek contain what the author himself tells us is entirely new material. This was the battle in which Early's troops fell on the camp of the Northern army at dawn on October 19, 1864. The Confederates brilliantly turned and surprised Sheridan's left and swept down his lines while the remainder of their army threw themselves against his front. All of the Federal forces except the Sixth Corps were thrown into confusion, and Sheridan, riding back to the sound of the heavy guns, had much ado to rally his broken ranks around

the corps which was still intact. This he did, however, and with his reformed lines he gave victorious battle to the thinned lines of Early. It was the sudden conversion of defeat into victory. There was error on the part of the Confederates in not pressing the retreating enemy early in the morning and dispersing the Sixth Corps. The reason given for this has usually been that the Southern soldiers behaved badly. Early himself accepted this theory. General Gordon denies it explicitly. The failure to press Sheridan's disorganized forces, says he, was due solely to the orders of Early. It was Gordon himself who led the turning column which broke the Federal left. As quickly as that event was accomplished, he made arrangements for surrounding and crushing the Sixth Corps. Before these could be carried into effect Early rode on the field. To Gordon's announcement of his further plans he said: "This is glory enough for one day; they will go of themselves." These facts Gordon related in his report of the battle, but his report did not reach Lee's hands, for what reason we are not told; and consequently it does not appear in the published records of the war. Gordon's evidence on this point is clear and substantiated by the statements of credible witnesses now living. He believes that but for the restraining order of the commander-in-chief it would have been impossible for Sheridan to have rallied his troops within striking distance of the Confederates. As to the charge that the Southern troops behaved badly, by which is meant that they dispersed to plunder the enemy's captured camp, this is denied. They stood in line, says the author, for hours anxiously expecting the orders that would send them forward to complete the work which they had begun. Gordon's statements are strong, and it seems probable that they will withstand the fire of controversy, should it concentrate upon them.

J. S. BASSETT.

The United States in Our Own Time: a History from Reconstruction to Expansion, being an Extension of "The History of the Last Quarter Century". By E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1903. Pp. xxxviii, 961.)

THIS is an attempt to review the political and industrial life and progress of the country during the past third of a century. Dr. Andrews begins with 1870 and closes with 1903. In his survey of this period he includes everything that has entered into the life of the American people. He discusses politics, business, law, combinations both of capital and of labor, strikes, lynchings, floods, earthquakes, and expositions. Apparently he accepts Mr. McKinley's dictum as to expositions being "time-keepers of progress", as he devotes space to every one since 1870. There is a fair account of the various frauds which characterized Grant's administrations, particularly his second term, with no attempt to minimize the President's shortcomings in connection with them. Indeed, in all his estimates of men Dr. Andrews is eminently candid and fair. The general summary of Congressional Reconstruction methods and results is very